



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

Lutheran music teacher arraigned on child pornography charges

MILWAUKEE — A former music teacher at the Sheboygan Lutheran High School was arraigned here last week on child pornography charges, following an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Peter Olson, 31, of the 1100 block of Union St., Sheboygan, was arraigned in federal court April 6 in U.S. District Court in the Eastern District of Wisconsin on one count of possessing child pornography. Olson, who was indicted by a federal grand jury March 21, entered a plea of not guilty.

According to the indictment, Olson knowingly possessed child pornography images that had been shipped or transported via the Internet, and possessed a computer containing visual depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

ICE agents conducted a federal search warrant at Olson's residence Sept. 8, 2004, and seized his computer. A forensic examination of the computer revealed images of child pornography. At that time Olson was employed as a music teacher at Lutheran High School and also taught music at several Lutheran elementary schools in the Sheboygan area. After the execution of the search warrant Olson was placed on a leave of absence by the South Wisconsin District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. He resigned his position in October 2005.

“Those who engage in sexually exploiting children should no longer expect distance or the anonymity of cyberspace to protect them,” said Brian Falvey, resident agent-in-charge of ICE investigations in Milwaukee. “ICE uses its significant law enforcement authorities to combat this horrific behavior against children both here and abroad.”

Olson's case is part of Operation Predator, an ongoing ICE enforcement initiative to protect children from pornographers, child prostitution rings, Internet predators, alien smugglers, human traffickers, and other predatory criminals. Since the initiative began in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 6,900 individuals nationwide, including more than 175 in Wisconsin.

ICE encourages the public to report suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jonathan Koenig. The Wisconsin Dept. of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation, and the Sheboygan Police Department assisted ICE in the execution of the federal search warrant.

Olson's trial is scheduled to begin July 5 before Chief Judge Rudolph T. Randa.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.